IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend as follows:

Please replace the paragraph numbered [0186] on page 74.

[0186] For analyses of Mst1, cells were lysed in a Lysis Buffer A, containing 25 mmol/L NaCl, 25 mmol/L Tris (pH 7.4), 1 mmol/L Na_3VO_4, 10 mmol/L NaF, 10 mmol sodium pyrophosphate, 0.5 mmol/L EGTA, 0.5 mmol/L AEBSF, 0.5 μg/mL leupeptin, 0.5 μg/mL aprotinin. Samples containing the equal amount of protein were subjected to SDS-PAGE. Proteins were transferred onto polyvinylidene fluoride microporous membranes (Bio Rad, Hercules, CA) and probed with primary antibodies. We used anti-Mst1 monoclonal antibody (Transduction Laboratory, Lexington, Kentucky) for detection of the carboxyl terminus of Mst1. Affinity purified rabbit polyclonal antibody was raised against animo-terminal ETVQLRNPPRRQLKC (pAb-15) (SEQ ID NO:4) (BioSource International, Camarillo, CA) for detection of the amino-terminus of Mst1. Blots were then probed by horseradish peroxidase-conjugated anti-mouse IgG or anti-rabbit IgG (Cell Signaling Technolog Inc., Beverly, MA). Antigen-antibody complexes were visualized by the enhanced chemiluminescence system (ECL, Amersham/Pharmacia, Piscataway, NJ). Polyclonal antibodies raised against cleaved caspase-3 (Cell Signaling Technology Inc.) were used to determine activation of caspase-3, as described (35).